

## BOOK REVIEWS

and illegitimate children separately, and the death rates for pulmonary and non-pulmonary tuberculosis, also given separately. After that follow the numbers of Health Visitors, Infant Welfare Centres and Ante-natal Clinics, the number of Venereal Disease Treatment Centres, together with their addresses and statistics relating to out-patients, but not to in-patients. Next come the numbers of probation officers in the areas, and following that, information relating to the mentally defective, including the number ascertained per 1,000 of the population and the arrangements made for the institutional care of the mentally defective. Finally, there is a section on the teaching of Biology in the schools, and where there is a branch of the British Social Hygiene Council brief particulars are given, including the nature of the work done.

At first sight the selection of data appears to be somewhat curious, although on reflection it will be seen that all have their purpose and none can be said to be outside the scope of "social hygiene" in its true meaning.

The prominence given to biological teaching shows the importance properly attached by the Council to this matter and, speaking generally, the record of what is done indicates that even greater efforts need to be made to develop this branch of work.

National statistics over a term of years are given of infant mortality, new cases of venereal disease treated at Centres, the incidence of venereal disease in the Services of the Crown, deaths from general paralysis of the insane, the blind population, and the notification rate for ophthalmia neonatorum.

So far as I am aware, the information concerning social hygiene which is given here for every part of the Empire, has never been collected together before.

It is impossible in a short review to do justice to the special articles the subjects of which I have enumerated earlier, and when all are so good it would be invidious to select one or two for individual mention, but I must refer to the valuable remarks of Colonel Harrison on the medical staffing of Venereal Diseases Clinics.

The book is of reasonable size (509 pages) and well produced and indexed.

W. A. D.

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THE MODERN TREATMENT OF SYPHILIS. By Joseph Earle Moore, M.D. Associate in Medicine, The Johns Hopkins University ; Physician in Charge Syphilis Division of the Medical Clinic and Assistant Visiting Physician, The Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore. x + 535 pages. 41 illustrations. 124 tables. Subject Index 4,266 references. Author Index 617 references. Baillière, Tindall and Cox, 7 and 8 Henrietta Street, Covent Garden, London. (Printed in United States of America.) Price 22s. 6d.

SINCE the modern treatment of syphilis dates from the discoveries of the five-year period, 1905-1910, including the demonstration of the causative organism, the development of serologic tests, and the introduction of salvarsan, the quarter of a century which has elapsed from the last of these can reasonably be claimed as sufficient time for just appraisal of accomplishment : and to the general body of medical

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practitioners an accessible and just appraisal is in fact to-day something of an urgent need.

Specialists in syphilis may be divided into three classes, one of which believes that syphilotherapy is still in such a state of flux that no definite statements can be made at present as to preferred methods of treatment ; one which holds that standardisation of treatment for all types of syphilitic infection is at present available and desirable ; and a middle group which takes the position that although present methods are in many respects unsatisfactory, new developments constantly occurring, and new methods being introduced, it is nevertheless worth while to describe the best methods of treatment now in use and to relate the attainable results.

To this middle group Dr. Moore belongs : and his book is offered as a description of current practice. It is the fruit of his experience as Physician in Charge of the Syphilis Division of the Medical Clinic of the Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore. This clinic was organised as a separate entity in 1914, and its patient material has exceeded 18,000 cases ; a great clinical material, and being one thoroughly examined and periodically re-examined by available clinical and laboratory methods, of high value for study as to the results of treatment. This book presents a study of that material correlated with critical studies from the syphilis clinics of four other universities, in addition to Johns Hopkins—the five forming the Co-operative Clinical Group. The author, therefore, though writing largely from the point of view of his own experience, has not neglected the work of other investigators. The reader, however, will find the worth of the book enhanced by the expressions of the author's personal opinion on points about which he differs, however slightly, from current opinion or from his own immediate colleagues. The book is very readable. A subject of great interest in itself is here given added interest by the lucidity, dignity and ease of its exposition. In thirty-one chapters every aspect of the modern treatment of syphilis, the patient and the drug, is clearly dealt with—and clearly with the cautious and persuasive authority that comes of knowledge. The author has succeeded in his aim—to provide information as to what may be done for patients with various types of syphilis and as to what the physician may expect if he does it ; and where a particular problem can be handled more properly by the expert with his clinical background of many syphilitic patients, than by the practitioner with only a few, he has not hesitated to say so. His results are presented in statistical form, for the best answer to the numerous questions of syphilotherapy is a consideration of results in terms of the average member of a large group. The unsolved puzzles that deeply underlie the treatment of syphilis and provide for the specialist perhaps its main, and certainly its philosophical, interest receive due notice by the author, and clinical experience is reviewed in relation to the more easily tested results of experimental laboratory research. The index is extensive and good, format and print excellent. The author is much to be congratulated on this monograph. As text-book and work of reference it has high importance and value, and its readers must agree that it was worth while for Dr. Moore to describe his methods of treatment and relate the attained results.

H. M. H.